Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device for:

through a first network, receiving an information packet originating from a client;

in response to the information packet, identifying a computing device that stores a data structure of a connection with the client;

if the identified computing device is the first computing device, performing an operation in response to the information packet; and

if the identified computing device is a second computing device, outputting the information packet through a second network to the second computing device for performing the operation in response to the information packet, such that the output information packet bypasses the first network.

2. The system of Claim 1 wherein the first computing device is a network interface card.

3. The system of Claim 1 wherein the first network includes a local area network.

4. The system of Claim 3 wherein the local area network is coupled through a global computer network to the client.

5. The system of Claim 1 wherein the second network includes a local area network.

6. The system of Claim 1 wherein the first network includes a first local area network, and wherein the second network includes a second local area network.

7. The system of Claim 1 wherein the operation is part of a software application.

8. The system of Claim 7 wherein the software application is a socket application.

9. The system of Claim 1 wherein the information packet is addressed by the client to the first computing device, and wherein the first computing device is for receiving the information packet through the first network in response to the addressing.

10. The system of Claim 1 wherein the operation includes outputting a response packet to the client, and wherein the first computing device is for:

if the identified computing device is the second computing device, outputting the information packet through the second network to the second computing device for outputting the response packet to the client, such that the output response packet bypasses the first computing device.

11. An information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device for:

through a first local area network, receiving an information packet from a global computer network; and

through a second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and a state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device, such that the output information packet bypasses the first local area network.

12. The system of Claim 11 wherein the first computing device is a network interface card.

13. The system of Claim 11 wherein the information packet originates from a client, and wherein the first local area network is coupled through the global computer network to the client.

14. The system of Claim 11 wherein the information packet originates from a client, and wherein the first computing device is for:

through the second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and the state, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device by outputting an encapsulated information packet to the second computing device, the encapsulated information packet including the information packet and a reference to a data structure of a connection with the client.

15. The system of Claim 14 wherein the reference is included within a single header of the encapsulated information packet.

16. The system of Claim 11 wherein the first computing device is for:

through the second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and the state, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device for performing an operation in response to the information packet.

17. The system of Claim 16 wherein the information packet originates from a client, wherein the first local area network is coupled through the global computer network to the client, wherein the operation includes outputting a response packet to the client through the first local area network and the global computer network, and wherein the first computing device is for:

through the second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and the state, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device for outputting the response packet to the client, such that the output response packet bypasses the first computing device.

18. The system of Claim 16 wherein the operation is part of a software application.

19. The system of Claim 18 wherein the software application is a socket application.

20. The system of Claim 11 wherein the information packet is addressed by the client to the first computing device, and wherein the first computing device is for receiving the information packet through the first local area network in response to the addressing.

21. The system of Claim 11 wherein the first computing device is for receiving at least a portion of the state from the second computing device through a third local area network.

22. The system of Claim 11 wherein the first local area network includes a hub.

23. The system of Claim 11 wherein the first local area network includes a Layer 2 switch, and wherein the Layer 2 switch is coupled through a router device to the global computer network.

24. The system of Claim 11 wherein the first local area network includes a Layer 3 switch, and wherein the Layer 3 switch is coupled to the global computer network.

25. A method performed by a first computing device of an information processing system, the method comprising:

through a first network, receiving an information packet originating from a client;

in response to the information packet, identifying a computing device that stores a data structure of a connection with the client;

if the identified computing device is the first computing device, performing an operation in response to the information packet; and

if the identified computing device is a second computing device, outputting the information packet through a second network to the second computing device for performing the operation in response to the information packet, such that the output information packet bypasses the first network.

26. The method of Claim 25 wherein the first computing device is a network interface card.

27. The method of Claim 25 wherein the first network includes a local area network.

28. The method of Claim 27 wherein the local area network is coupled through a global computer network to the client.

29. The method of Claim 25 wherein the second network includes a local area network.

30. The method of Claim 25 wherein the first network includes a first local area network, and wherein the second network includes a second local area network.

31. The method of Claim 25 wherein the operation is part of a software application.

32. The method of Claim 31 wherein the software application is a socket application.

33. The method of Claim 25 wherein the information packet is addressed by the client to the first computing device, and wherein the method comprises:

receiving the information packet through the first network in response to the addressing.

34. The method of Claim 25 wherein the operation includes outputting a response packet to the client, and wherein the method comprises:

if the identified computing device is the second computing device, outputting the information packet through the second network to the second computing device for outputting the response packet to the client, such that the output response packet bypasses the first computing device.

35. A method performed by a first computing device of an information processing system, the method comprising:

through a first local area network, receiving an information packet from a global computer network; and

through a second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and a state of at least one of the first computing device and a second computing device, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device, such that the output information packet bypasses the first local area network.

36. The method of Claim 35 wherein the first computing device is a network interface card.

37. The method of Claim 35 wherein the information packet originates from a client, and wherein the first local area network is coupled through the global computer network to the client.

38. The method of Claim 35 wherein the information packet originates from a client, and wherein the method comprises:

through the second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and the state, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device by outputting an encapsulated information packet to the second computing device, the encapsulated information packet including the information packet and a reference to a data structure of a connection with the client.

39. The method of Claim 38 wherein the reference is included within a single header of the encapsulated information packet.

40. The method of Claim 35 wherein the method comprises:

through the second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and the state, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device for performing an operation in response to the information packet.

41. The method of Claim 40 wherein the information packet originates from a client, wherein the first local area network is coupled through the global computer network to the client, wherein the operation includes outputting a response packet to the client through the first local area network and the global computer network, and wherein the method comprises:

through the second local area network, in response to at least the information packet and the state, selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device for outputting the response packet to the client, such that the output response packet bypasses the first computing device.

42. The method of Claim 40 wherein the operation is part of a software application.

43. The method of Claim 42 wherein the software application is a socket application.

44. The method of Claim 35 wherein the information packet is addressed by the client to the first computing device, and wherein the method comprises:

receiving the information packet through the first local area network in response to the addressing.

45. The method of Claim 35 wherein the method comprises:

receiving at least a portion of the state from the second computing device through a third local area network.

46. The method of Claim 35 wherein the first local area network includes a hub.

47. The method of Claim 35 wherein the first local area network includes a Layer 2 switch, and wherein the Layer 2 switch is coupled through a router device to the global computer network.

48. The method of Claim 35 wherein the first local area network includes a Layer 3 switch, and wherein the Layer 3 switch is coupled to the global computer network.